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### **Regents' "Speaking of Science" Program Set To Spark Lifelong Student Interest In Science and Technology**

Ever wonder why dinosaurs didn't live in Louisiana? How in the world water flows underground? How to find the needle in the haystack?

Answers to those questions and many more are available through "Speaking of Science," (SoS) a Board of Regents/National Science Foundation-sponsored speakers bureau focused on sparking student interest in science and engineering at Louisiana's primary and secondary schools and increasing public awareness of exciting research being conducted at Louisiana universities. The Board of Regents recently sent out some 4,000 brochures to every K-12 school in the state detailing the wide array of subjects and university-faculty experts available to them free of charge through this valuable program.

New to the "Speaking of Science" program this year is the availability of professional development presentations for K-12 faculty. A second publication listing speakers available for presentations to college undergraduates, faculty and the general public will be distributed later this fall.

"The 'Speaking of Science' program is another excellent example of how Louisiana can make the most its educational resources to benefit our students at all levels," said Commissioner of Higher Education E. Joseph Savoie. "The program gets our university faculty involved in promoting science and technology in the early grades. That kind of encouragement can go a long way toward influencing Louisiana's young people to prepare for college, which reinforces the 'access for success' goal of Louisiana's Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education."

Thirty-five science and engineering faculty and researchers from 13 Louisiana public and

(More)

## **Speaking of Science**

### **ADD ONE**

private universities are available to give presentations throughout the state to students in kindergarten through high school. These presentations – all tailored to meet the age and needs of the audience - cover topics ranging from computers, mathematics, physics, biology, astronomy and medicine to chemistry, engineering, geology and environmental sciences. Last year the program reached nearly 3,000 Louisiana K-12 students, teachers and parents.

“We’ve received excellent feedback from the teachers who’ve taken advantage of the program,” said Board of Regents staff member Erin Bendily, who coordinates the “Speaking of Science” program. “The kids love guest lecturers and they enjoy the demonstrations. The speakers like the program because it allows them inspire students to pursue careers in science and technology.”

Bendily said that this year SoS brochures were sent out as early as possible to help teachers compare the available topics with their lesson plans and line up their speakers well in advance.

SoS is sponsored by the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the National Science Foundation Louisiana EPSCoR program (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research).

For more information or to schedule a presentation, call Erin Bendily at the Louisiana EPSCoR office at (225) 342-4253 or complete an on-line form on the website at <http://laregents.org>.